

I wouldn't want them buried—any part of them—in the landfill.”

### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. RICHARDSON. In this month of March, as we celebrate Women's History Month, I would like to take a moment to recognize some of our great female leaders who, throughout history, have persevered in the face of monumental opposition and successfully have accomplished great things on behalf of the American people.

From the words of the great poet, Maya Angelou, from the beautiful singing voice of Marian Anderson, from the tireless activism of Dolores Huerta, to the groundbreaking leadership of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, and, of course, our own Democratic leader NANCY PELOSI, these women and many more have played an integral role in the history in this Nation.

Madam Speaker, every day, women take great strides to help others and to improve the quality of life for everyone. Unfortunately, in matters involving health care, women are still facing these challenges. Whether it's on the Senate floor last week during a debate on the Blunt amendment or whether it's during a House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform hearing, women continue to face unwarranted attacks on their reproductive health rights and their access to contraceptives.

More disconcerting, these debates and veiled attacks have escalated beyond misguided attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Now they've taken aim at restricting women's choices in the area of reproductive health altogether. This is wrong. Medical decisions about a woman's health must leave the political arena and be left to the discretion of the patient and their doctor, not employers, and certainly not the government.

It is astonishing and disappointing that more than 50 years after the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, a decision which found that women have a constitutional right to use contraceptives, continued attacks on women's rights of privacy and health care still persist, and at an alarming rate.

The American people want us to work towards addressing their top priority: creating jobs, not their reproductive rights. However, this Congress seems to be more focused on bringing forward legislation that targets women's access to basic health care. In this Congress alone, we've taken eight votes on antiwomen health legislation.

A 2011 Guttmacher Institute study found that over 90 percent of women, and over 90 percent of Catholic women, between the ages of 15 and 44 have used

some sort of birth control at some point during their lives. Birth control can cost up to \$600 a year. So for a college student, a woman who's had multiple children and is still in childbearing years, low-income women or those who are underinsured, insurance coverage means the difference between accessing contraceptive services or not.

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Quite simply, Madam Speaker, all women should have the choice and access to contraception and have the resources no matter where they work, where they live, or where they go to college. This is why I'm proud to support President Obama's Affordable Care Act, which I voted on, which will make a positive impact on women and children in their access to health care and greatly decrease the number of women and their families who are uninsured or underinsured.

Studies have shown that women who have health insurance don't always receive the medical care they need because their policies don't cover certain services or the women simply can't afford the high deductibles and copayments. The Affordable Care Act changes this unfortunate reality by assisting women in gaining access to basic preventive health care in order to prevent life-threatening diseases in the future.

Our country is facing great challenges. People need jobs. Students need affordable education. Seniors and working families need affordable health care. But one thing we don't need is to continue to waste time debating extreme legislation that is dangerous to women's health, disrespects the judgment of American women, and is nothing less than the most comprehensive and radical assault on women's health in our lifetime.

Madam Speaker, as people all over America pay tribute during the month of March to the generations of women who have committed to progress and have proved invaluable assets to our society, let us in Congress renew our commitment to support women—not with certificates at banquets, but by working to ensure equal treatment of all women in society, providing women with equal access to health care, and protecting women's rights, and their families, to choose once and for all their own health care.

### HOOSIERS MAKE INDIANA PROUD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today because I've never been prouder to call southern Indiana home. Late Friday afternoon, in our part of America, a disaster brought neighbors together, turned strangers into friends, and reminded us all what it means to be part of a community.

Over the course of several hours, fierce winds, softball-sized hail, and

deadly tornados descended upon southern Indiana communities, leaving behind a 50-mile path of destruction from New Pekin to Chelsea and beyond. Our people are still assessing the costs, but we know this much: 13 Hoosiers have died, scores have lost their homes and businesses, and citizens across the region have suffered untold damage to their personal and public property.

As hard as it is to imagine, the tragedy might have been worse were it not for the bravery and resilience of rank-and-file Hoosiers. Our firemen, policemen, EMTs, and local officials deserve our thanks. Those who serve in Indiana's National Guard, our State police, and our Department of Homeland Security stepped up, too. From the initial response through the ongoing efforts today, their service has been exemplary.

But it has been concerned citizens, so-called "ordinary" Americans who have restored a measure of stability to a region pummeled by forces beyond our control. There was a bus driver in Henryville who, in the nick of time, rushed dozens of children back to school to protect them from the approaching twister. There were the EMTs off Interstate 65 who saw a woman thrown from her car and saved her from being pummeled by hail by dragging a large metal sign across the road and holding it over her. They likely saved her life.

There were parents and friends and even strangers across southern Indiana who, as danger approached, took a moment to extend a hand to others and said, Come inside, we'll find room. After the storms left their mark, Hoosiers immediately turned to accounting for loved ones and comforting neighbors.

The damage was and is severe. One tornado—by some accounts a half-mile wide—carved a clear path through southern Indiana, ripping trees out of the Earth, hurling automobiles and combines long distances, severing power lines, and decimating countless homes and businesses. Here, again, Hoosiers didn't sit around and wait for others to help us out. We got to work.

Now, over the weekend I spent time surveying the damage and meeting with those who lost the most. Everywhere I visited, I met citizens wearing work boots and work gloves who were busily beginning to sort through the piles of rubble. I met others who had fired up their chainsaws and were clearing debris from roadways. I saw clusters of cars and pickup trucks parked outside homes that were hit hardest.

In the aftermath of such a tragedy, one would be forgiven for asking: Why me? But I never heard it. Instead, time and again I heard Hoosiers sympathize with those who lost more than they. And more than one person told me that, in the end, stuff doesn't really matter; it's people that are important.

I heard sincere, caring people ask their neighbors: How can I help? In